4/22/70

Dear Howard (cc Dick),

I think that yesterday I complained I have to waste an enormous time countering wrong things. Today is an example, an advance for any undue brevity in my response to your mailing postmarked 4.20. I got started at 5 a.m. to complete revision of the complaint I have prepared to be filed against Skolnick et al if the opportunity can be arranged. I finished it at mail time, read the mail in haste not yet including the carbon of your letter to Dick, did some necessary outside work, and have now about a quarter of an hour before lunch. Ill finish this thereafter. I am going into town tonight before the last mail and will send it then.

First, your letter of the 17th, re Archives. There are some thing in it I have asked youp please, to leave alone, or have you forgotten? I showed you what I had been doing on them and some are close to fruition. I'd hate, as you would, for anything to happen to them. Some are as far back as that part of my Archives file you went over. Others are not in the category. I'll separate, perhaps without explanation, and if you do not recall or object, write.

I also asked for the Eumes memo but carried it no further, deciding the other aspects on which I was started are more important to me. I think it would be good if you carried this forward. I widl, if you'd like, counsel with you on it. I offer, to begin with, taking them up on the use of the word "relevant", which I presume they bracketed with "files of the Warren Commission". In this event I suggest what they will recognize, that you ask if this in every case means every file thy have of whatever description, source or content. You might, for example, alude to the executive order of 10/31/66. But do not alude to what I am having forced there since that was issued. You might go further and ask if they have searched what was turned over subsequent to the ending of the Commission and the transfer of its files (say both). This way you have a definition you can always cite.

Please leave the memo of transfer alone. You have only duplicated what I'd already told you. This is a technicality they have given you, an evasion. I'd rather put no more in writing, but this is important and if it is not advisable to write further before you are here again, Ill tell you the entire tale. I've been working on this since 1966. For the moment, let me tell you it is not really as described in the panel report. You should recall what I've already told you of this. If not, please let it rest where it is. For the moment, do not send me copies of your correspondence on this. If you have not already written Marshall, don't waste the time or bother him, for I have just given him something much more serious to worru about and he should not be driven the wrong way. I have written him about the memo. I thought you'd seen that correspondence.

If they do not send you a copy of the Guildines re CDs 434,451, I will. I have also carried this business of the government (involuntarily, I assure you) making material available on a selective basis to a certain point with them on several things. I think I forced Behmer's retirement on one. The other deals with Jerry Ford's book. But push them and get them on paper, but do not antagonize them. They did not give it to Epstein, Liebeler did. They are required to abide by the regulations, so they may well be guiltless here.

Many other things are now on my mind. I stop eating to ask what I do not want to forget: why do you cover the same ground you know I have or am where there is so much that does not duplicate to be done? You know I show you what I have. And, by the way, I have more to show you besides the picture.

Further, on this, before I return to the calorieless salad, I intend carrying as many as feasible of these forward in court actions, as you cannot. I expect to mail the last letter needed preparatory to filing the panels' reports suit today and am working simultaneously on the others. The list you started for me is, as I told you, preparatory to exhausting administrative remedies and final determination of that for which I will sue.

Make ti, as I once asked you earlier, I believe (or was it Dick) two copies of the Nichols base photo. Here I would like copies of tour correspondence, for I have had extensive correspondence on it also. As I told you yesterday, his copyright of an Archives picture is bibberish. Only the use, and that must be a special one, can be. If I should ever want to make any use of his picture, and I plan none, I'd then get one in my own name and, should you get it, would be able to identify it. My last request has not been responded to other than by Johnson, verbally, saying they have no other one that can be it.

Your 4/18 on John: He didn't even have a copy of it until I made it in N.O. and gave the xeroxes to Garrison's people to mail, to save myself the postage. If you should ever see his copy, you'll find the marks I made on it beginning midnight of the morning of the first Halleck hearing. The tragedy is that none of the pathologists on "our side" understood it. Wecht must have read it in too-great haste (I sent him a copy, too), for I had to tell him what it said and meant. I think I have some ideas of John's to-you sudden interest in the PMs, but I'll await any suggestions you and Dick may have to make as things unfold. But if he missed so much in PM III, does this give you any ideas? It cannot be because he doesn't understand the language. Analyze it. Whether or not you come up with an answer, it will be a good intellectual exercise.

You say "he has been in Phila since the 13th"/ I presume he told you this. I'm glad to know he was there for a meeting. But I think you should ponder my having a telegram from him from Washington (no word since) dated the 15th, he was in Phila the 16th to see you, and he had been in Phila before that. In short, he left and returned to Phila, the difference being that before seeing you he saw the two books in the copyright office. Does this suggest anything to you? Here I quote you:"Sometimes he would just sit and listen to me...and almost go into a daze."

Re his search for the raduologists report: It has been at least a year since I asked the Navy for everything and got told they do not have it. It is I who first told and showed John they have to keep everything, believe it or not. I have not yet decided whether to include the Navy in my suits, but I have laid the basis if I decide to. So, there is nothing confidential here. However, since you recall my recent letter to him, I think you'll rather enjoy what would have been one of the first things had he responded like a mensch. I will be saying little about my quest for some of this material, but as I have been, quietly, as I think it must be done, I shall be continuing. Meanwhile, I hope he enjoys the trail of the Admirals...He is "very proud of 'his' work", as you say, and to him everyone else's work is also "his", as you should recall from that part of a conversation and the letter you overheard and saw here. If what is really his consists of a single major contribution to the case, I forget it or never knew it. I do not think it exists. He doesn't know enough, had to get me to go there to turn on the man he wanted to be his lawyer (and it was a very costly trip, that being the one on which the Feebees decided to give the best attention to my luggage!).

As with all of those with whom the serious of us have unpleasant experiences, tackkey to John is an insufferable ego. There is evidence of this in your letter that you seem not to have understood:"He complimented me once by saying we kight know more today if everyone asked the kind of questions I did". Or, you are a fine lad who sits, respectfully, at the feet of the might and the all-wise, drinking in every golden word.

Everyone who has met John uses the same word (among others in some cases) to describe John, "eccentric". But by now you should be beginning to get other indications.

So it is from John that you learned the autopsy room was cleared? He never knew this until he read it in PM. I gave it to Garrison to use in the trial, with credit never acknowledge. As I said, everything is "his" material. Everyone missed this in S-O, and because of the misuse by Epstein, who got it only because one I'd directed to it forgot I asked him to keep it quiet, I decided to hold it back from WWII. But I spotted that in early 1966 and it is one of the first things to confirm my earlier thinking. Does this tell you also of John's honesty? With your sentence, "Of course, that is all who should have been there all along" I take strong exception, and this was neither the desire nor the expectation of the White House, as I believe I once told you. If not, remind me when you are here. In this case, since John understands only what he was told, it was not " so that the autopsy findings remain confidential". If you will go over that part of PM again when you are here, you will find that those who were put out and kept out by military guards were not that "all personnel save the docs and those needed to take the pix" were ejected. It is all civilians& unnecessary military personnel remained. The exceptions were only the SS agents keeping an eye on the corpse and the FBI agents keeping an eye on the SS men.

Nichols statement that there is nothing on the base of 399 may be correct, as I assume it is and as I have also assumed for other reasons, as my first and PM writings show. However, I suggest there could be sufficient foreign matter for analysis and it need not be visible in a picture.

Neck fragments: there remain other alternatives (I forgot to say, but I'm in your 4/17 to Dick). I think I suggested one*further fragmentation of a fragment.

This comment on chest incision makes more sense than your earlier ones and is quite ancsistent with my emphasis on the missing pix and X-rays, esp of the areas other than where the wounds areblocated.

Here you say, "I hope to develop this with John". I am sorry. Howard, but I will run no further risk. If you have any firther intercourse with him about medical things, there will be no more between you and me. Isimply cannot risk it. And I will be left with the feeling I trusted you too much. Besides, have you not already learned the depths of his ignorance, even on aspects in his own discipline? I cannot risk the inadvertent disclosure of what I have trusted you with and intend to trust you with. I know that here you are talking about your own material, the lung damage. You may consider me unreasonable, but I just am not going to take nay more chances. If you have no idea of the enormous time and other cost I've had cleaning up messes most of which originated with the best intentions, I'm not going to start going into it now. I have already wasted too much time in such things as should never have happened. And when, after all I've tried to tell you and all the time I've taken with it, you say if Lifton only that he is "brilliant" and Looney", which is hardly adequate, ans then with ill-becoming self-assurence say, "I believe I have a lever with him with the tace he wants", well, it's just too much. Lever for what, for Christ's sake? To make more trouble and worry for me? It is not just disappointment, I've run out of time with the space. Sincerely,